



FIRESCOPE COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST GROUP

MAY 2-3, 2006
KERN COUNTY FIRE
MINUTES (Approved)

Welcome and Introductions

Kern County Fire Captain Kevin Harper welcomed the group to the Kern County Fire Training Facility. Chair Tim McClelland presided over the meeting. Vice-Chair Peter Lawrence was in attendance. Chris Hinshaw was asked to take minutes due to the absence of the Secretary Brent Finster. Chief Dan Drake from FIRESCOPE was also present.

Members In Attendance:

David Bail	Telecom. Mtce. Sup.	State of CA–DGS Telecom
Frank Ealand	Radio Program Mgr.	United States Forest Service
Kevin Harper	Captain	Kern County Fire
Chris Hinshaw	Manager	San Diego Co. Sheriff/Imperial Valley Fire Chiefs Assoc.
Steve Hobbs	Captain	Santa Barbara County Fire
John Hudson	Asst. Chief	State of CA – OES Telecom. (<i>alt. to OES Telecom</i>)
Peter Lawrence	Battalion Chief	Oceanside Fire
Tim McClelland	Assistant Chief	State of CA – CDF San Bernardino
Rick McClung	Comm. Liaison	Fresno Fire (<i>alternate to Henry</i>)
Kevin Nida	Battalion Chief	Los Angeles City Fire
Geoff Pemberton	Engineer/COML	Riverside County Fire (<i>alternate to Ashbaugh</i>)
Rick Robinson	Battalion Chief	Orange County Fire
Sal Santangelo	Sergeant Major	State of CA - Army National Guard
Glen Savage	Telecom. Manager	State of CA – CDF Telecommunications
Hampton Stewart	Frequency Coordinator	State of CA – CDF (<i>alternate to Savage</i>)
Scott Wallace	Telecom. Specialist	State of CA – DGS Telecommunications (<i>alt. To Bail</i>)

Guests in Attendance:

Dennis Beene	Law Branch	State of CA - OES
Matt Myers		Fresno County EMS Agency
Ed Pecinovsky		State of CA – POST
Sam Lafferty	Telecom. Supervisor	State of CA – DGS Telecommunications
Paul Clay	Technical Trainer	State of CA – DGS Telecommunications
John Finnerty	Pilot	Los Angeles County Fire

Members Absent:

Chet Ashbaugh	Telecom. Manager	Riverside County Fire (<i>alternate present</i>)
Brent Finster	Telecom. Manager	Contra Costa County Fire Chiefs Assoc. (<i>alt. absent</i>)
Tim Henry	Battalion Chief	Fresno City Fire (<i>alternate present</i>)
Lee Kraft	Captain	Clovis Fire (<i>alternate absent</i>)
Frank McCarthy	Captain	Los Angeles County Fire (<i>no alternate designated</i>)
John Moulder	CDO Coordinator	National Interagency Fire Center – Boise (<i>no alt. desig.</i>)
Denny Neville	Deputy Chief	Elfin Forest Volunteer Fire (<i>no alternate designated</i>)
Matt Nilsen	Captain	San Diego Fire-Rescue (<i>no alternate designated</i>)
Mike Sidlinger	Battalion Chief	Ventura County Fire (<i>alternate absent</i>)
Don Stabler	Sr. Dispatcher/Chair	CA Fire Chiefs Assoc. Comm - North (<i>no alt. desig.</i>)

FIREScope Communications Specialist Group (FCSG) Logistics

Approval of January FCSG minutes – The minutes of the January 2006 meeting were approved by email vote.

FCSG Roster – Any changes should be emailed to bfinster@cccfd.org

FCSG Membership Status – Chief Drake will check with Chief Drayer as to whether there should be a representative from State Office of Homeland Security on the FCSG.

FCSG Email List Server – John Hudson will check on the status of the OES email server.

Agency Reports

FIREScope Operations/Task Force/Board of Directors – FIREScope Board of Directors is looking for members for the NIMS review board and they are working on new logo that removes California from the center.

OES Fire & Rescue – No report.

OES Telecommunications – OASIS is being upgraded. The Inland Empire is already done with VoIP capability. Trailers will have upgraded data capability and will still provide voice channels as well. Looking for cell phone upgrades with no camera, hand free car kit and true external antenna connector.

CDF COMPLAG – Narrowbanding of CDF frequencies is now pushed out to 2010 to be in concert with other agencies as much as possible. CDF is pushing ahead with replacing infrastructure with narrowband- capable radios operating in wideband mode so that they are in ready for 2010. The plan to tone protect the CDF tactical channels is shelved for now. Contracts for procurement of narrowband equipment will be open to local agencies. Air tactics channels are narrowband, 2 CDF tacticals are narrowband and San Bernardino Local 2 is now narrowband. Most CDF radios are now GPH-CMD radios.

There is a COM 205 folder in the CDF incident operations intranet network to make 205's easy to get to by the CDF Communications Coordinators. ICS 205's can be mailed to this folder at com205@fire.ca.gov. There will be a historical file of the 205's in this folder for review and reuse. If this works out then it may be appropriate to host the COM 205 folder on a FIREScope or OES server.

CALSIEC – At the last CALSIEC meeting in Burbank, Robert Sommond from State of California Office of Homeland Security did a presentation on gateway technologies. There is a need for gateway policies, procedures and governance. Tom Worden distributed an interoperability plans document which is the first step in governance for gateways. See www.calsiec.org website for details.

CALSEIC Chair John Powell presented a proposed national naming convention plan from NPSTC for the nationwide interoperability frequencies. The new naming convention for the 800 MHz. frequencies was approved, but the rest of the bands are in review. FCSG agreed that the national naming plan is very poorly designed for operational use. One suggestion is to call the channel by the frequency i.e. "154280". Kevin Nida and Pete Lawrence will draft a whitepaper for the FIREScope Board and CALSIEC on the issues with the proposed naming convention with a couple of suggested alternatives with the first draft in two weeks to the Chair. In the PSRSPC update, the State advised that they are purchasing 40 interoperability gateways, most trailer mounted. PSRSPC will be hosting a vendor day for vendors to discuss interoperability solutions.

NIFC/NIICD – No report.

FCSG Sub-committee Reports

FCSG Technical Advisory Group (CTAG) – There was no meeting of CTAG nor activities of the group.

FCSG Training Group (COMMTRAIN) – Vice-Chair Lawrence will contact Matt Nilsen regarding a training committee update.

Channel Advisory Group (CAG) – CAG revised a letter to go out requesting frequency information specifying local/regional VHF High command and tactical channels, (not state, national or NIFC channels), dispatch channels used for countywide purposes or those that can be used for command or tactical that may be used during the first operational period.

ICS Form 205 Revision Group (FCSG205) – It was proposed to capture links (using gateways) on the 205's in the remarks column using the word "linked". Geoff Pemberton will continue working on this.

Old Business

Recommendation-800 MHz. radios for Fire Service – Recommendation being considered at OPS.

Communications Response Teams – It was determined that CRT's are an Operational Area issue and will not receive further attention from the Taskforce. Operational Area representatives in FCSG will start to develop CRT's in their area and bring results back to FCSG for review and development of standards. The intent is to start to work with the Incident Management Teams to integrate CRT established communications personnel when they take over an incident.

CDF ICT COML & CIIMT COML & COMC Summit – LA County has 27 signed up so far. 30 showed up for the Contra Costa Summit. General consensus was that the Summit was useful and should be repeated.

Incident Communications Conference – Fall/Winter 2006-2007 – No details have been worked out yet. There will need to be lots of help getting it set up. Pemberton, Stewart, McCarthy and Hinshaw have been conscripted so far. This will be a National Incident Communications Summit from a California perspective. OES at Mather and USFS Training Center at McClellan are possibilities. The Conference would incorporate a vendor exhibit, mobile communications unit rodeo, hands on with gateway switches, etc. There will be a Conference call in approximately four weeks to discuss further.

Marine channels programmed in Part 90 radios – An attendee advised that the Marine Kenwoods and Motorola P25's are type accepted for marine.

WHITE channels narrowbanding – White channels will not be narrowbanded until the 2010 target in conjunction with CDF. There is a need to notify all agencies who have licenses on the White channels of the 2010 date.

Travel Net – California Fire agencies have a reprieve until December of 2006 when Travel Net is no longer available for that use by the Federal government. FCSG is tasked with finding a simplex channel that can be used statewide. FCSG needs to notify the agencies of the loss of Travel Net and remind them that unless they are licensed statewide they can NOT use a local channel out of area. The DGS representatives will determine if DGS can find/license a new travel net frequency statewide. FCSG needs to write a justification for the use/existence of travel net. A policy for use of travel net needs to be incorporated into the FOG.

Comm Unit Personnel Ordering-MIRPS/ROSS – The new implementation of the Resource Ordering and Status System (ROSS) provides an opportunity to clean up the lists of incident communications

personnel. Local government personnel will need to verify recent CICCS certification for personnel entered into the system. The Chair will try to get someone from CDF Training to update on their process.

Incident Communications Positions/310-1/CICCS/NIMS – No additional information was available.

Communications Resource Database – OES will not modify CFIRS database but will create new database. Peter Lawrence mapped out the data elements for the database (see handout).

Incident Dispatcher Program – Don Stabler will be asked to update FCSG at the next meeting.

New Business

Law Enforcement Incident Communications - General consensus from the Law Enforcement representatives present was that this will not be a priority for Law, that they will use their Dispatch Management personnel to perform Communications Unit Leader functions. The NIMS Communications Unit Leader requirements will only apply to UASI cities in California and not to the majority. They agreed that the more training the better, but that with staffing issues in communications centers and existing mandatory training it is unrealistic to believe COML/COMT/INCM/RADO will get much attention. Hinshaw will attempt to integrate the 310 dispatcher positions into the existing dispatch training in the San Diego region and let the system grow from there.

Aviation Communications - Lots of Public Safety aviation resources don't have the FIRESCOPE recommended channel plan. The FOG needs to be specific for aviation resources so that there are common communications capabilities. Existing aviation communications packages are becoming obsolete. Replacement of the current configuration has a cost of \$600,000 plus. Is there an opportunity to develop a standard comprehensive package that can be less cost? On May 10th at South Ops there will be a discussion of aviation pre-assigned initial attack frequencies. Chair and Hampton Stewart will attend.

Good of the Order

Next meeting

The next FCSG meeting will be in Sacramento (see note below) on Tuesday, September 26, 2006 1300 to 1700 hours and Wednesday, September 27, 2006 0900 to 1500 hours.

Secretary's note: Due to the unavailability of meeting space at Mather, the Chair asked the Secretary to host the September meeting at Contra Costa County.